

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /127 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01142

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 28

REF: USUN 1118

1. SOUTH AFRICA ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE MET MARCH 28, PRIMARILY TO HAMMER OUT ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE. IN PRELIMINARY REMARKS EXPLAINING HIS OWN DRAFT GUIDELINES, CHAIRMAN BISHARA (KUWAIT) EMPHASIZED THAT DRAFT (REFTEL) REPRESENTED HIS OWN INTERPRETATION OF HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS. HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT "EVERYTHING WILL BE DISCUSSED IN ADVANCE". HE WANTED NO CONFRONTATION - "ONLY COOPERATION". HE WANTED "EVERYTHING ABOVE BOARD". COMMITTEE THEN SPENT NEXT TWO HOURS DISCUSSING BISHARA DRAFT OF NOTE:

- (A) PRESS CONFERENCE: BISHARA AGREED TO INSERT WORDS "IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE" AFTER "CHAIRMAN" IN PARA 5 OF BISHARA DRAFT. US AGREED. REGARDING FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 5, BISHARA TOLD US IN PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS EARLIER MARCH 28 THAT HIS REFERENCE TO "UNDERGROUND SUBSIDIARY" MEANT ONLY THAT COMMITTEE
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SHOULD NOT OPERATE IN TOTAL SECRECY.

- (B) CONSENSUS: WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF WESTERN FIVE (WHO HAD MET EARLIER ON THIS SUBJECT), US OFFERED LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS. INDIA, MAURITIUS AND GABON, SUPPORTED WEAKLY BY USSR, LED THE CHARGE AGAINST USING CONSENSUS PROCEDURES IDENTICAL TO

THOSE NOW USED BY SANCTIONS COMMITTEE. ALL THREE ARGUED THAT, IF CONSENSUS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, COMMITTEE SHOULD VOTE WITH NO VETOES ALLOWED. BISHARA ARGUED STRONGLY, AND, WE BELIEVE, DECISIVELY THAT ANY VOTING PROCEDURE WOULD CRIPPLE COMMITTEE. CONSENSUS WAS NEEDED TO PROVIDE "TEETH" TO COMMITTEE. BISHARA TOOK WESTERN POINTS ON AMBIGUITY OF PARAS 6 AND 7 AND SAID HE WOULD RE-DRAFT.

- (C) PUBLIC MEETINGS: WESTERN FIVE HAD AGREED EARLIER THAT, PROVIDED DEFINITION OF CONSENSUS WAS APPROPRIATELY TIGHTENED IN PARAS 6 AND 7, BISHARA PARA 8 WAS ACCEPTABLE.

- (D) NON-MEMBERS: BISHARA AGREED TO CANADIAN FORMULATION "ADDRESS AND ASSIST" IN PLACE OF "PARTICIPATE".

- (E) SOURCES OF INFORMATION: SEVEN MEMBERS ARGUED, FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, THAT PERMANENT MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE SINGLED OUT AS SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE. BISHARA WILL RE-DRAFT PARA 11.

2. COMMITTEE AGREED TO MEET, IN PRINCIPAL, TWICE A MONTH ON WEDNESDAYS. HOWEVER NEXT MEETING CALLED FOR APRIL 5. PRIOR TO THAT MEETING, BISHARA WILL CONSULT MEMBERS AND REDRAFT PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES. BISHARA
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HOPES COMMITTEE CAN AGREE ON ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE ON APRIL 5. LEONARD

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